



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS - Effective 6/9/15

FAQ Revised July 8, 2015

**Q. Are the new water restrictions mandatory?**

**A.** Yes, after considering public comment, the City Council adopted mandatory conservation measures on June 9, 2015, to comply with the newly enacted State conservation law (23 Cal. Code Regs. sec. 865(f)(1)). The City's water customers must comply with the City's new conservation measures effective June 9, 2015.

**Q. What is the effective date of the new water restrictions?**

**A.** The City Council adopted the water conservation ordinance and declared a Stage 2 water alert on June 9, 2015. Both became effective immediately on June 9, 2015.

**Q. Why did the City Council choose these specific water restrictions?**

**A.** The City had a choice of either limiting outdoor irrigation to two days per week, or implementing other conservation measures and enforcement to achieve a 25% reduction in water usage. Since the City Council chose the option to limit outdoor irrigation to two days per week, measuring and strict monitoring of water usage is not required at this time. The City was required by the State to adopt other water regulations, such as no water runoff over sidewalks and automatic shut off nozzles on hoses.

**Q. What stage are we currently in?**

**A.** The City is currently in a Stage 2 – Water Alert. The City Council may raise or lower the water conservation stages at any time based on new or revised State requirements, changes in the City's available water supply or unforeseen impacts to the City's water system. Water customers will be notified of changes in the water conservation stages.

**Q. What are the restrictions for Stage 2?**

**A.** The following apply under the current Stage 2 Alert:

- Landscape watering is limited to two days per week according to a predetermined watering schedule below:
  - Odd numbered addresses can water on Sundays and Thursdays on mornings from 12-midnight to 10:00am and evenings from 7:00pm to 12-midnight.

- Even numbered addresses can water on Saturdays and Wednesdays on mornings from 12-midnight to 10:00am and evenings from 7:00pm to 12-midnight.
- Water no longer than 30 minutes per watering zone or station per assigned day.
- No landscaping watering during and 48-hours after measurable rainfall of 0.10" or more.
- The application of water in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private or public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures is prohibited.
- Use of a hose without an automatic shut-off nozzle is prohibited.
- Allowing leaks to go unrepaired for more than 72-hrs is prohibited.
- Using water to wash down driveways or sidewalks is prohibited.
- When using water for construction-related purposes, use recycled or non-potable water when available.
- As a voluntary measure, restaurants and other food service establishments are encouraged to serve and refill water only upon request.

**Q.** Will water prices/charges be reduced for conserving water?

**A.** The City's water rate structure has not changed due to the drought or the recently enacted water conservation ordinance. Customers will see a reduction in their water bill if their water usage falls into a lower tier in any given month.

**Q.** Will the City re-evaluate the water rate structure – Is 15 units still the minimum?

**A.** The City Council did not reevaluate the water rate structure with adoption of the water conservation ordinance. The current rate structure includes an allowance of 15 units of water in the base rate. 15 units is equal to 11,220 gallons of water.

**Q.** Why do I have to pay the minimum or base rate if I conserve and use less than 15 units?

The base rate, or 15 unit minimum, is necessary to pay for the City's cost to operate the water system. So, in addition to the first 15-units of water, the base rate also includes the City's costs of pumping and storing water, ensuring water quality, chlorination, reading meters, preparing and mailing bills, maintaining and repairing the water system, paying employees, regulatory compliance and paying the debt service for a major water system rehab project primarily in the older part of town (which included water mains and wells).

**Q.** How do Wheatland's water rates compare with other providers in the area?

**A.** Wheatland's rates are very reasonable when compared with other agencies. Click or go to the links below to see comparisons of rates in the region (data from October 2014).

[-Residential Water Rate Comparison](#)

[-Commercial Water Rate Comparison](#)

**Q.** Who will enforce the water restrictions?

**A.** The City's desire is for self-enforcement based on personal responsibility. The intent of the Ordinance is to work together to conserve water in one of the worst droughts in the history of California through information and cooperation. Enforcement will only be used if necessary. The City will do what it can to inform and encourage residents to conserve and use water wisely. If everyone complies with the new regulations then no enforcement will be necessary.

Enforcement (if necessary) will be based on citizen complaints, observations by City staff and occasional monitoring of individual water usage. Complaints will be investigated by Public Works staff and may result in verbal warnings, written warnings or eventually citations or loss of use. Water customers may be contacted by our Public Works staff or Wheatland Police depending on the time of day and severity of the situation or circumstances. Citations may be issued after 2nd written notice of violation as follows: 1st Citation \$50, 2nd Citation \$75, and 3rd or more \$100.

**Q.** If you have a drip irrigation system, do the watering days still apply?

**A.** Yes. Watering day restrictions apply to everyone regardless of whether you have a drip irrigation system or not.

**DIDN'T SEE YOUR QUESTION HERE? NEED MORE ANSWERS?**

Please contact Public Works at 633-2785

**Water Saving Ideas** at [www.saveourh2o.org](http://www.saveourh2o.org)

**Technical Assistance** call Public Works at 633-2785 (leave a message)

**City Water Conservation Information & Ordinance** go to [www.wheatland.ca.gov](http://www.wheatland.ca.gov)

**Report Water Violations** call Wheatland Police Department (530) 633-2821 (don't dial 911).

**Ver este folleto en Español** at [www.wheatland.ca.gov](http://www.wheatland.ca.gov)